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Executive Registry
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CIA Graduate Association

1. We talked a few weeks ago about the pros and cons of organizing a graduate association comparable to the association of former FBI agents, the Foreign Service Association and similar organizations for retired members of Government agencies. In attempting to develop a consensus as to what practical steps are feasible, I have talked at some length to Tom Karamessines, Cord Meyer, Larry Houston, Tom Parrott, Bill Casey, Allen Dulles, Kermit Roosevelt and, some time ago, to John McCone. It seems to me that a plan of action along the following lines could work:

a. Messrs. McCone and Dulles have agreed (Allen quite recently) to serve as honorary co-chairmen of a national association of retired OSS and Agency people or at least of the organizing effort involved in establishing such an organization. Kim Roosevelt indicated that he would be prepared to serve as the president or officer in charge of the organizing effort as long as it does not take too much of his time. My suggestion would be that the organization proceed in two phases. Kim would write a letter to Admirals Hillenkoetter and Raborn saying that Messrs. Dulles and McCone were prepared to serve as co-chairmen of an organizing committee to establish an association, the membership of which would be made up of former CIA and OSS employees, and inviting Hillenkoetter and Raborn to serve as co-sponsors of this effort.

b. Assuming that Hillenkoetter and Raborn would associate their names with this organizational move, a list of founding members would be drawn up with the help of (and

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probably pretty much by) some person or persons in CIA. Appropriate letters signed by Kim Roosevelt would go to this list, enclosing a proposed statement of objectives and articles for the establishment of the organization and inviting recipients to become members on payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), tax deductible and available for the Educational Aid Fund.

c. Assuming that there was enough reaction to make it seem worthwhile proceeding further, the next thing to do would be to have local chapters established. Bill Casey in New York, for example, would be asked to form a chapter in New York and membership would be solicited on a much broader basis. Individuals would be eligible for membership who have served in OSS or CIA and whose membership is not found by the membership committee to be detrimental to the purposes of the organization. Some flexibility in the provisions governing membership would be desirable to permit the admission of at least distinguished former members of the community, like  who would otherwise not be eligible. Obviously the organization of the association would provide for a membership committee.

2. People with whom I have talked, particularly Larry Houston, have emphasized the importance of having some definite program to keep the interest of members alive once the organization is started. One basic purpose of the organization would of course be to encourage members to give money to the Educational Aid Fund. This in itself might not be enough to hold their interests indefinitely. One somewhat passive inducement to membership would be the fact that members would have access to the locations and addresses of former colleagues who have retired and are living in various parts of the country. In addition to this, however, everybody I talked to feels that it should be possible to arrange for occasional meetings in Washington at which substantive briefings at the secret/confidential level could be given and discussion groups organized. Moreover, if the local chapters work out, speakers could be sent from Washington at the invitation of the local chapters. I think, incidentally, that there might be considerable interest in this sort of thing in New York and that, if invited, Bill Casey and others would be glad to spend some time and even some money in promoting a local organization and even, perhaps, establishing some facilities for visitors, such as a room in the Harvard Club or in some hotel where people could meet for a drink and so on.

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3. Assuming that considerable support from the Agency would be required, particularly for the purposes suggested in the preceding paragraph, it seems essential that some individual in the Agency be given the responsibility for backstopping this program. Walter Pforzheimer's name has been suggested.

4. In order to avoid any charge of lobbying or establishing a propaganda machine, it is the general consensus that no funds should pass from the Agency to this proposed organization. On the other hand, there seems no reason why the Agency cannot supply lists, advice, lecturers and even drafts of letters, solicitations for membership and organizational proposals, etc.

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